

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1, 8, 10 and 15 are currently being amended. The amendment to claim 10 is to correct a clerical error in that claim. No new matter has been added.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-18 are now pending in this application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,347,203 to Kutsuwada et al. (“Kutsuwada”).

Independent claim 1 is directed to an image forming device comprising a finisher which includes a copy bin for receiving a copy output and a printer bin for receiving printer output. In claim 1, as amended, if an original to be copied is set, or if an automatic original feeder or platen is raised, the printer bin is replaced by the copy bin without depressing a copy key for performing a copy function. Kutsuwada fails to disclose or suggest this feature or its advantages.

Kutsuwada discloses an image forming apparatus 1000, and finishing units 400 or 450, where finishing unit 400 has movable trays 411 (col. 6, lines 34-37), and finishing unit 450 has fixed trays 451, 452 and 453 (col. 6, lines 66-67). The Kutsuwada system provides a screen shown in FIG. 5C that allows a user to set the order of priority of jobs relating to a copy function, a facsimile function, and a printer function (col. 4, lines 11-26). Kutsuwada provides an example of a job in copy mode having a higher priority than a job in print mode, where when a print job is executed and a management unit receives a request to start a copy job, the print job is suspended and the copy job is executed (col. 4, lines 27-37).

Kutsuwada, however, fails to disclose or suggest replacing a printer bin by a copy bin if an original to be copied is set, or if an automatic original feeder or platen is raised, without depressing a copy key for performing a copy function. Even if the device of Kutsuwada were to replace a printer bin by a copy bin when a request to start a copy job is received while copy mode has higher priority than print mode, Kutsuwada does not suggest that the copy bin would replace the printer bin without depressing a copy key for performing a copy function. In Kutsuwada, the print mode is not interrupted when the copy mode has priority unless a request to start a copy job is received. Kutsuwada does not disclose or suggest that the request to start a copy job is received without depressing a copy key for performing a copy function. Thus, Kutsuwada does not suggest, as in claim 1, replacing a printer bin by a copy bin if an original to be copied is set, or if an automatic original feeder or platen is raised, without depressing a copy key for performing a copy function.

Moreover, Kutsuwada does not disclose the advantage of the device of claim 1 in reducing the waiting time for bins to be switched for an image forming device that performs more than one function (such as a printer function and a copy function). Systems which switch the printer bin to the copy bin only when a user depresses a copy key produce a waiting time when copying is performed immediately after printing (see specification, bridging paragraph, pages 1-2). This waiting time is reduced when the copy bin replaces the printer bin upon setting an original to be copied, or upon an automatic original feeder or platen being raised, without depressing a copy key for performing a copy function. Kutsuwada fails to realize this advantage.

Independent claims 8 and 15 respectively recite “a finisher including a copy bin for receiving said copy output and a facsimile bin for receiving said facsimile output, which are selectively set in a position at said paper outlet such that, when said facsimile bin is in the position at said paper outlet, if an original to be copied is set, or if an automatic original feeder or a platen is raised, said facsimile bin is replaced by said copy bin without depressing a copy key for performing a copy function” and “a finisher including a first bin for receiving said first output and a second bin for receiving said second output, which are selectively set in a position at said paper outlet such that, when said second bin is in the position at said paper outlet, if an original to be copied is set, or if an automatic original feeder or a platen is raised, said second bin is replaced by said first bin without depressing a key for performing the first

and are patentable for reasons analogous to claim 1. The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective dependent claims, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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